THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Government have not taken any final decisions in this regard.

Smuggling of pelts of Leopards, tigers and hyenas

130. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of pelts of leopards, tigers and hyenas are being smuggled out of India for sale in the International market;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or proposed to take in this regard;

(c) what is the estimate value of pelts seized during the last two years from passengers travelling abroad and what has been the total value of such seizures; and

(d) what is the number of persons prosecuted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and other relevant statutes for smuggling of pelts to other countries during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Cases of attempted smuggling of pelts to other countries is dealt with under the Customs Act and not under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Details about number of persons against whom action has been taken in the last two years by the Custom Authorities are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Consultancy charges and Intellectual fee for Designing Navodaya Vidalayas

131. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have disbursed several lakh of rupees among the staff of the CBRI as consultancy charges and intellectual fees for designing Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country; if so, whether the said work has been completed;

(b) what amount has been disbursed so far, the amount proposed to be disbursed and the number of designs received by Government so far;

(c) what is the justification in giving such consultancy charges and fees to the staff of the CBRI from the public funds;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in an SOS the CBRI's scientific worker's Association, Roorkee has requested Government to stop misappropriation of public funds by disbursal to the staff of the CBRI; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government thereto?